

completely. Examination revealed the tail of a Blowfish (*Spheroides pleurogramma*) protruding from its throat.

I dissected the bird and found that the fish, which was 4.7 in. long, was quite fresh and complete, digestion not having started. Its body was partly inflated, distending the bird's gullet. It is suggested that the bird was suffocated through not being able to swallow or regurgitate the fish, or, more likely, that the fish being still alive when swallowed had inflated itself in the customary manner of blowfish, thereby causing the death of the bird by pressure on the trachea.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

Mediterranean Land Snail at Katanning.—Since the review of the spread of the Mediterranean land snail (*Theba pisana*) by D. L. Serventy (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 2: 38; 6: 193) and the recordings of the species at various places on the mainland between Geraldton and Eucla, further observations have been made. One at Pemberton (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 2: 119) was the first more than a few miles inland from the coast. In November 1963 I found the snails at Katanning. A random sample of 50 animals from here was compared with a similar sample gathered at Wembley Downs, about one mile from the sea. None of the Katanning specimens had the all-white shell colour found in a proportion of the Wembley Downs collection. Although there was an overlap, in that the whitest of the Katanning shells were indistinguishable from the darkest of the coastal shells, the inland animals were significantly browner than the coastal ones.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Wembley Downs.

An Observation of the Terek Sandpiper near Perth.—The Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) appears to be a rare visitor to the south-west portion of this State; the only previous observations having been made by D. L. Serventy at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary (September 9, 1936) and at the mouth of the Moore River (October 23, 1948), and by A. Burbridge and C. F. H. Jenkins at the Mandurah Estuary (one individual observed several times between November 17 and December 6, 1962). In addition one bird was trapped by C. A. Nicholls at Pelican Point on October 17, 1961.

It is worth while putting on record then that I observed a single individual feeding in company with a small flock of Little Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*) at Pelican Point, during the afternoon of November 2, 1963. The bird, which was immediately identifiable by its long, black, upturned bill and bright orange legs, was very active (as were the Little Stints also) running quickly and haphazardly over the mud flats, only pausing occasionally to probe deep into the mud with its bill.

Other waders present on the Point at the same time were Grey Plover, Red-eapped Dotterel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Curlew Sandpiper.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

*On the same day an individual was seen at Albany by members of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, during their annual interstate field outing.—Ed.